

East Baton Rouge Parish



“Over the years, it has become clear that individual health is closely linked to community health—the health of the community and environment in which individuals live, work, and play. Likewise, community health is profoundly affected by the collective beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of everyone who lives in the community”

Parish Health Profiles 2005 — Your Parish at a Glance

	East Baton Rouge	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
ECONOMICS, 2000				
% All persons in poverty	17.9%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	23.0%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	6.3%	7.3%	5.8%	--
EDUCATION 2002-2003				
School Expenditure per Student	\$7,661	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	93.7%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	6.4%	7.0%	--	--
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	10.4	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care w ithin first 3 months	81.9%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	79.7%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth w eight	10.9%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	13.5%	15.5%	10.6%	--
% Children fully immunized by 2 years old	--	69.8%	78.5%	90.0%
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2003 (new cases - rate per 100,000 population)				
Syphilis (primary and secondary)	--	4.1	2.5	0.2
Early Syphilis (primary, secondary and early latent)	27.1	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	518.3	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	311.0	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	2.9*	5.8	5.1	1.0
STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)				
Heart	226.8	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	184.1	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	45.1	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	39.5	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	18.3	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Low er Respiratory	24.6	37.8	43.3	--
COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	6.4	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	2.2	2.1	1.5	0.8
HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004				
	Region 2	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	20.9%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI>30 (adults 20+)	23.4%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram w ithin 2 years (women 40+)	81.0%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear w ithin 3 years (women 18+)	88.6%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	74.7%	68.6%	67.9%	90.0%

Data Sources:

Economics: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data, 2000

Education: Louisiana Department of Education District-reported data submitted to the Student Information System (SIS) end-of-year (EOY) report and Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP) System. Office of Management and Finance, Division of Planning, Analysis and Information Resources. District Composite Report 2003-2004.

Mothers and Children: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005

Infectious Diseases: DHH/OPH, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. 2004 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Disease in the United State, 2003". NA= Rate not available, # of cases is less than 5

Leading Causes of Death: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005 (**Rates for counts less than 20 are unreliable and are not reported)

Community Safety: Child Abuse--Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, prepared by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and Motor Vehicle Deaths--EM S/Injury Research & Prevention Program

Healthy Behaviors: DHH/OPH, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

History^{1 2}

Created on December 22, 1810, this area was settled by the French and ceded to Great Britain under the Treaty of Paris in 1763. It was captured by Galvez in 1779. In 1807, under the rule of Spain, it was claimed that this parish, together with others in what is now referred to as the Florida Parishes, was still under the rule of Spain and not included in the boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. The parishes in question rebelled against Spain and formed the West Florida Republic. This was immediately taken over by Governor Claiborne for the United States. During this early history, eight flags flew over the area.



In 1772, Penicaut, in his book on Louisiana, *Relation*, wrote, “Five leagues above le Manchac we found very high banks, which are called bluffs in that country, and the savage tongue Istrouma which signifies Baton Rouge (Red Stick) because there is in this place a reddened post, which the savages have placed to mark the division of the lands of the two Indian nations, that of the Bayougoulas from which we came and the other about 30 leagues higher than Baton Rouge, called the Oumas.” Some historians believe the red stick was a tall red cypress tree stripped of its bark. Today, with the city of Baton Rouge the dominant center of business, culture, education, and finance, the parish looks forward to more and more prosperity.

Parish Seat³Baton Rouge

Major Cities (population over 5,000)

- Baton Rouge
- Baker
- Zachary
- Merridale⁴

Parish Population⁵

2000.....	412,852
2003 (estimate)	412,447
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	56.2%
African American.....	40.1%
Some other race.....	3.7%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race)	1.8%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years	7.0%
5-14	14.5%
15-17	4.6%
18-19	4.5%
20-24	9.9%
25-64	49.5%
65 & over	9.9%

Geography and Statistics⁶

Average elevation	19ft.
Land area in square miles	455
Water area in square miles	14.9

Climate

Average temperatures	
Annual.....	70°
January	58°
July.....	80°
Annual average rainfall.....	77.64 inches

Labor Force (2001)⁷

East Baton Rouge Parish

Civilian.....	216,409
Employed	204,908
Unemployed.....	11,501
Unemployment.....	5.3%

Louisiana

Civilian.....	2,055,000
Employed	1,956,500
Unemployed.....	98,500
Unemployment Rate	4.8%

Colleges/Universities (within one hour commute)

- Louisiana State University and A&M College
- Southern University and A&M College

1. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002
2. Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information [http:// www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm](http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm)
3. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002
4. A Census Designated Place is "a densely settled concentration of population that is not within an incorporated place, but is locally identified by a name", such as Merridale in East Baton Rouge Parish.
5. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3) <<http://www.census.gov>>
6. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts <<http://www.census.gov>>.
7. Louisiana Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force Summary <http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF_Parishes_2000-Present.xls>